

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3681

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1511

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, UY  
SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY

1. DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT APARICIO MENDEZ  
APRIL 20, WHICH WAS A MOST CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY ONE, THE  
PRESIDENT THANKED ME IN VERY SINCERE TERMS FOR THE FRIENDSHIP  
AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE I HAD ALWAYS SHOWN TOWARD URUGUAY  
IN MY THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS HERE.

2. WHEN THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AROSE, THE PRESIDENT  
STATED HIS ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER, WHOM HE VIEWS  
AS AN HONEST LEADER WITH HIGHEST MORAL PRINCIPLES. HE SAID  
HE HAD READ THE PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH WITH INTEREST AND THAT THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS CONCEPTS EXPRESSED WERE SHARED BY THE GOVERNMENT  
OF URUGUAY WHICH THUS HAD NO PROBLEM IN AGREEING WITH THEM.  
HE ALSO FELT THAT THE DIRECTION OF THE APPLICATION OF US POLICY  
HAS CHANGED SOMEWHAT IN ITS EMPHASIS, AS IS EVIDENCED BY  
RECENT TESTIMONY, AND HE FELT THAT THE RESULTS WOULD BE MORE  
POSITIVE BECAUSE OF THAT. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT URUGUAY HAD  
BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD BY THE US GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF MIS-  
REPRESENTATIONS TO IT. HE BELIEVES THE USG IS NOT AWARE OF  
THE ACTUAL SITUATION HERE NOR DOES IT FULLY APPRECIATE THE PROBLEMS  
WHICH HAD TO BE FACED. HE THOUGHT THEREFORE THAT THE US HAD  
COMMITTED SOME ERRORS IN THE PURSUIT OF ITS LAUDABLE POLICY,  
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URUGUAY, HE SAID, HAD REACTED POSITIVELY IN THE  
WAY ITS DIGNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY REQUIRED AND HAD REFRAINED FROM  
ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT EXACERBATE THE SITUATION. THE GOVERNMENT  
HAD THEREFORE REMAINED CALM AND IS RELYING ON THE BASIC TRA-  
DITION OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO ENSURE  
IN THE LONG RUN A SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN.  
HE SAID THAT HE WOULD FREELY ADMIT THAT IN TRYING TO DEAL

WITH SUBVERSION EXCESSES HAD BEEN COMMITTED IN URUGUAY AND POSSIBLY SOME MIGHT STILL BE COMMITTED. BUT HE ADDED THAT TO THE EXTENT THE GOVERNMENT CAN DISCOVER THIS IT WILL DEAL WITH IT EFFECTIVELY SO AS NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES WHICH IT DOES NOT IN ANY SENSE CONDONE. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WILL INEVITABLY DEVELOP A GREATER WORLDWIDE REALIZATION OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH HAD TO BE FACED BY COUNTRIES LIKE URUGUAY AS OTHER COUNTRIES ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS WITH TERRORISTS. HE ILLUSTRATED BY REFERRING TO CURRENT REPORTS THAT SWEDEN HAD RECENTLY BEEN FORCED TO EXPELL CERTAIN SUBVERSIVES WHO HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO THAT COUNTRY, THAT TUPAMAROS HAD ATTEMPTED A KIDNAPPING IN PARIS AND THAT IN EL SALVADOR TERRORISTS HAD KIDNAPPED THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HE SAID THAT WHERE EXCESSES HAD BEEN COMMITTED THEY WERE THE RESULT OF INVOLVEMENT IN A BITTER STRUGGLE AGAINST AN ENEMY WHICH EXCLUDED NO MEANS TO ACHIEVE ITS ENDS. WHILE THESE WERE REGRETTABLE, THEY WERE NON-THE-LESS CHARACTERISTIC OF BATTLE. TO ILLUSTRATE HE SAID THAT IF HUMAN RIGHTS HAD BEEN OF HIGHEST CONSIDERATION THE UNITED STATES WOULD NEVER HAVE DROPPED AN ATOM BOMB ON HIROSHIMA. BUT TERRIBLE AS WERE THE EFFECTS OF THAT ACT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EVEN MORE TERRIBLE, HE SAID, IN TERMS OF DEATH AND HUMAN SUFFERING, HAD THE BATTLE CONTINUED LONGER ON ALL FRONTS. HE ENDED HIS COMMENTS WITH AN EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND WITH THE HOPE THAT THE USG WOULD MAKE A REAL EFFORT TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT URUGUAY TODAY AND TO VIEW IT IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS NATION'S NEED TO PRESERVE ITSELF AGAINST A TOTALLY UNWARRANTED SUBVERSION. GIVEN THIS, HE SAID, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE TRADITIONAL AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIP WHICH

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HAS UNITED OUR TWO COUNTRIES WOULD ERASE THE STRAIN OF CURRENT RELATIONS.

3. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT I SHARED HIS CONFIDENCE OVER THE LONG TERM STRENGTH OF US-URUGUAYAN RELATIONS AND THAT I AGREED THAT TO A CERTAIN EXTENT THE ATTITUDE TOWARD URUGUAY IN SOME SECTORS IS BASED ON A DISTORTED IMAGE. I NEVERTHE-LESS REPEATED WHAT I HAVE SO OFTEN SAID TO URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS BEFORE: THAT URUGUAY'S BEST COURSE IS NOT TO ATTACK ITS ACCUSERS BUT TO ADOPT A POLICY OF GREATER OPENNESS WHICH WOULD NOT ONLY REVEAL ITS EFFORTS TO CONTROL ABUSES AND PUNISH TRANSGRESSORS BUT WOULD REASSURE THOSE HONESTLY CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS THAT THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT IS DOING ITS BEST TO OBSERVE ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. FOR THIS, I SAID, I COULD SEE NO REAL SUBSTITUTE FOR SOME FORM OF AGREED INSPECTION.

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## Message Attributes

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